

# TENEBRAE

HOLY WEDNESDAY



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024  
7:00PM

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ROYAL OAK, MI

## ***Wednesday in Holy Week***

*Tenebrae*, meaning “darkness” or “shadows”, is an ancient monastic service preceding The Three Days that begin on Maundy Thursday. It is a meditation upon the events in Jesus’ life between the Last Supper and the Resurrection.

In the service there is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights until only a single candle remains. Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden to signify the apparent victory of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made - symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection; the hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light we depart.

### ***Holy Week Services This Week – Every evening at 7:00pm***

#### **Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 28 - 7:00pm Eucharist**

On the last night Jesus spent with his friends, he gave us the ‘commandment’ to love one another. We remember this night by gathering to receive Holy Eucharist and waiting in darkness as the altar is stripped (remembering the hours of Jesus betrayal and arrest). Following the service, the chapel is open for meditation until 9:30pm. Children especially welcome!

#### **Good Friday: Friday, March 29 – 12:00noon Stations of the Cross (Traditional); 4:00pm Intergenerational Interactive Stations of the Cross; 7:00pm Holy Eucharist**

On Good Friday, we remember Christ's suffering and death. We receive ‘reserved sacrament’ rather than a new Eucharist meal remembering that this was the day of Jesus crucifixion and death.

#### **Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 30 - 7:00pm, Lighting of the New Fire (Woodward Avenue entrance), and Holy Eucharist**

Our community gathers around the altar fire to hear the stories of God's work in our world throughout history and in the present through the great Salvation Stories. We celebrate the first hours of Resurrection with joy. It is a service of deep mystery, beauty, and darkness which is overcome by light. Children especially welcome! Festive reception follows – if you like, bring something to share.

#### **Easter Sunday: Sunday, March 31 - 8:00am, 10:15am Festal Eucharist**

##### ***Bring bells to ring!***

This festival Eucharist proclaims the risen Christ, the fulfillment of hope, the triumph of justice, and the immortality of love. Bring bells to ring! The children in our parish receive flowers, and the flowers that adorn the altar are delivered to our homebound parishioners following the service. Easter Egg Hunt (Trunk or Treat style) immediately following in the parking lot.

# TENEBRAE

## OPENING PRAYERS

*The people stand.*

*Presider* †Grace to you and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*People* **Amen.**

*Presider* For us and for our salvation, Christ gave himself for us

*People* **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

*Presider* Renew and strengthen us, eternal God

*People* **As we prepare for resurrection.**

Merciful God, your strength and courage pour forth to sustain the witness of your faithful people: Awaken in us the humility to serve wherever creation is broken and needy, that we may follow in the way of our brother, Jesus; die as he did to all that separates us from you; and be raised, as he was, to new life. **Amen.**

*The people are seated for the readings and reflections.*

## I. A READING

**Mark 14:32-36**

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want."

Jesus returned again to the three disciples and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

## A REFLECTION FROM THE DISCIPLE, JAMES

*A bell rings to begin a moment of silence.*

## INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

- *During a brief silence, offer a prayer - Lord Jesus, give us unshakeable hope and faith to keep awake in the face of failure, defeat, and death.*

*A bell rings to end the silence.*

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

### Ostinato Refrain

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.

Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

### ⊕ The first candle is extinguished.

*Leader* Then Jesus came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said  
“Could you not watch with me one hour?”

*A period of silence is kept.*

## II. A READING

**Matthew 26: 14-22**

Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. They were greatly pleased, promised him money, and began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

When it was evening, Jesus and the twelve gathered for the Passover meal. When they were eating, Jesus said, “One of you who is eating with me will betray me.” The disciples were distressed and very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?” He said to them, “It is one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.”

### A REFLECTION FROM THE DISCIPLE, JUDAS ISCARIOT

*A bell rings to begin a moment of silence.*

### INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

*During a brief silence, reflect on where you may be trying to take things into your own hands rather than waiting and trusting.*

*A bell rings to end the silence.*

# MUSICAL RESPONSE

## Kyrie Eleison

Music By Heart, 38

Part 1

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

Part 2

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. \_\_\_\_\_

⊕ The second candle is extinguished.

*Leader* Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when Judas came to the garden, he went up to Jesus at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then the guards laid hands on him and arrested him.

*A period of silence is kept.*

### III. A READING

Matthew 26: 69-72

After he was arrested, they took Jesus to the high priest, the elders and the scribes. Peter had followed him, at a distance, into the courtyard and was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

One of the servant-girls came by, stared at Peter and said, "You were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But Peter denied it, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about."

Peter went out into the forecourt and the cock crowed.

The servant girl said to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again, Peter denied it.

After a while, the bystanders said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I tell you, I do not know this man."

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Peter remembered that Jesus has told him that before the cock crowed, he would deny Jesus three times. And Peter broke down and wept.

### A REFLECTION FROM THE DISCIPLE, PETER

*A bell rings to begin a moment of silence.*

### INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

*During a brief silence, please offer yourself forgiveness for something you've held onto for too long.*

*A bell rings to end the silence.*

### MUSICAL RESPONSE

**Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing, 101**



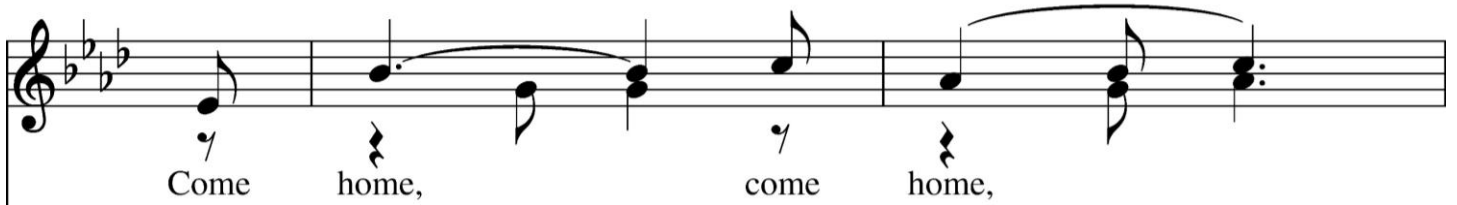
1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,
4. Oh! For the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised,



1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's
2. Plead - ing for you and for me? — Why should we lin - ger and
3. Pass - ing for you and for me; — Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,
4. Prom - ised for you and for me; — Though we have sinned, He has



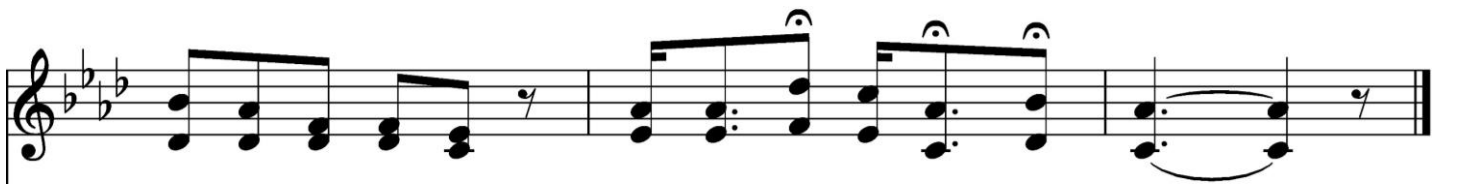
1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —
2. heed not His mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me? —
3. death beds are com - ing, Com - ing for you and for me. —
4. mer - cy and par - don, Par - don for you and for me. —



Come home, come home,



Ye who are wea-ry, come home! — Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home! —

### ⊕ The third candle is extinguished.

*Leader* When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

*A period of silence is kept.*

## IV. A READING

John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. John 19:25b-27

### A REFLECTION FROM THE DISCIPLE, JOHN THE BELOVED

*A bell rings to begin a moment of silence.*

#### INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER

*During a brief silence, invite Jesus into a space where you have been heartbroken.*

*A bell rings to end the silence.*

#### MUSICAL REFRAIN

O how He loves you and me

Lift Every Voice and Sing, 35

1. O how He loves you and me. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Je - sus to Cal - vary did go, \_\_\_\_\_

1. O how He loves you and me; \_\_\_\_\_  
2. His love for the worlds to show; \_\_\_\_\_

1. He gave His life, what \_\_\_\_\_ more could He give;  
2. What He did there brought \_\_\_\_\_ hope from de - spair;

1. O how He loves you, O how He loves me,  
2. O how He loves you, O how He loves me,



1. O how He loves you and me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. O how He loves you and me. \_\_\_\_\_

⊕ **The fourth candle is extinguished.**

*Leader* When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Solemn silence is kept in which we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus, and what appeared to be the victory of evil.*

⊕ **The last candle is hidden.**

**NOISE**

*A loud noise is made symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's resurrection. It invites us to imagine the confusion felt by his disciples as they discovered that Jesus was not in the tomb.*

**V. A READING**

Excerpts from John 20

Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. The angels said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

**A REFLECTION FROM THE DISCIPLE, MARY MAGDALENE**

*A bell rings to begin a moment of silence.*

**INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER**

*During a brief silence, offer this prayer - Lord Jesus, sometimes it seems you have been taken from me, and I don't know where you are.*

*A bell rings to end the silence.*

# MUSICAL REFRAIN

## Open My Heart

Music By Heart, 31

Part 1

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Part 2

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

O - pen my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

⊕ A single candle is then returned to the altar table signifying that the Light of the World triumphs over death.

## VI. FINAL READING

## Song of the Winding Sheets, *by Jan Richardson*

We never  
would have wished it  
to come to this,  
yet we call  
these moments holy  
as we hold you.  
Holy the tending,  
holy the winding,  
holy the leaving,  
as in the living.  
  
Holy the silence,  
holy the stillness,  
holy the turning  
and returning to earth.  
  
Blessed is the One  
who came  
in the name,

blessed is the One  
who laid  
himself down,  
  
blessed is the One  
emptied for us,  
  
blessed is the One  
wearing the shroud.  
  
Holy the waiting,  
holy the grieving,  
holy the shadows  
and gathering night.  
  
Holy the darkness,  
holy the hours,  
holy the hope  
turning toward light.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*The people stand and pray together.*

*Presider* Eternal God,  
rock and refuge:  
with roots grown old in the earth,  
with river beds that have run dry,  
and with flowers that have withered in the field,  
we wait for you.

*People* **Open our hearts.**

*Presider* Abide with us until we come alive again in the sunrise of your glory.  
**Amen.**

*Clergy* Let us go forth in peace.

*People* **Amen.**

*The people leave in silence.*

## Tenebrae Participants

*Thank you to those who participated in and planned tonight's Tenebrae Service.*

Leaders	Sandy Curtis, Kevin McLogan, Yve Jones, Sharon Kennedy, Rachel Andrews
James	Michael Saggau
Judas	Jamiel Dado
Peter	Mark Miliotto
John the Beloved	Gerardo Aponte-Safe
Mary Magdalene	Mary Gilhuly
Piano	Steve McGhee
Percussion/Cantors	Gregg Barnett, Debbie Smith, Brynn Ward, Annalise Galat
Acolyte	Carol Aaron
Usher/Greeters	Tales Lima/Jim Whipple
Tech Team	Chris Bosley, Laurie McLaughlin, Mark Miliotto
Opener	Tim Morgan

*You are invited to sit for a time or visit Lenten Prayer Station on the side altar to reflect on anything you have seen or heard this night.*



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